

Child died from weed killer

A verdict of Misadventure was recorded at a Liverpool inquest yesterday on a girl, aged eight, who drank weedkiller in mistake for lemonade.

Mr. George Ensor, the deputy coroner, issued a warning against decanting the weedkiller, Paraquat, from its container, which was clearly labelled "dangerous".

The inquest was on Beverley Pollitt, of Sycamore Road, Run-corn, Cheshire, who died in a Liverpool hospital nearly a month after drinking weedkiller from a bottle labelled lemonade.

The father, Mr. Sidney Pollitt, said he got the weedkiller from a friend to use in his own garden, although it was marketed for agricultural use only. It was a dark brown fluid and was given to him in the bottle which had the original lemonade label still on it.

Dr. Andrew Swann, of I.C.I. research laboratories said a small mouthful would prove fatal.

He said the weedkiller, marketed for agricultural use only, was put out in special containers clearly labelled: "Dangerous if swallowed. Never repack from this container. Keep out of reach of children."

The coroner said: "Inevitably, there is a certain amount of pilfering. This substance was removed illegally from the I.C.I. premises, and a man is to be prosecuted."

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